

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 1, 3, and 5-8. This sheet replaces the original Figures 1, 3, and 5-8. Approval by the Examiner is respectfully requested. Upon approval from the Examiner, formal drawings will be submitted under separate Letter to the Draftsperson which will incorporate the changes approved by the Examiner.

Attachment: Replacement Figures 1, 3, and 5-8  
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

## **REMARKS**

### **Status**

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated November 28, 2005, in which Claims 1-17 were rejected. No claims have been canceled; claims 1, 8, 13, 15, and 16 have been amended; and no new claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-17 are pending in the application, and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

### **Drawings and Specification**

The drawings stand objected to. The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 1, 3, and 5-8. Specifically, Figure 1 is amended to remove element "44"; Figure 3 is amended to remove "M1" and "M3". Figures 5-8 are each amended to remove "M".

Further, the specification has been amended to remove reference to diameter "W".

As amended, the figures are believed to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Approval of the figures and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

### **Claim Objection**

The claims have been renumbered to correct the two instances of claim 14. The second instance is now numbered as claim 15.

### **Claim Rejection - 35 USC 112**

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 8 has been amended, and as amended, is believed to overcome the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

### **Claim Rejection - 35 USC 102**

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,949,346 (*Kuper*). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a laser apparatus for emitting a beam of coherent light directed along an optical axis. The apparatus includes a guiding member 110 for directing a beam of light produced by a light-emitting diode toward the gain medium. As described in the Specification starting at Page 6, line 16 and best shown in Figure 3, the guiding member is hollow and has an internal reflective surface wherein the propagation is in air or vacuum. This feature is clearly claimed in amended claim 1 as “the guiding member being hollow and having an internal reflective surface wherein the propagation is in air or vacuum”, and in claim 13 as “directing the geometrically confined beam of light through a hollow reflective wave guide onto a gain medium disposed in the optical axis and the optical excitation path such that the propagation is through air or vacuum”.

In contrast, *Kuper*'s wave guide is not hollow, nor is the propagation in *Kuper* in air or vacuum. Rather, in *Kuper*, the wave guide is solid, as clearly described in *Kuper* at Col. 4, lines 39-52. Thus, the propagation is not through air or vacuum.

As such, the present invention as claimed in independent claims 1 and 13 is not anticipated by *Kuper*.

Claims 2-3, 5, 7-8, 11-12, and 14 are dependent on either claim 1 or 13, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to claims 1 and 13, claims 1-12 and 14-17 are also believed to be patentable.

### **Claim Rejection - 35 USC 102**

Claims 16-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by FR 2,372,528. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 16-17 are dependent on claim 13, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 13, claims 16-17 are also believed to be patentable.

### **Claim Rejection - 35 USC 103**

Claims 1-9 and 11-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duarte, Dye Laser Principles, 1990 (herein “Duarte”) in view of US Patent No. 6,038,244 (*Usui*), and further in view of US Patent No. 6,836,502 (*Canady*). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, the apparatus of the present invention includes a guiding member 110 for directing a beam of light produced by a light-emitting diode toward the gain medium. As described in the Specification starting at Page 6, line 16 and best shown in Figure 3, the guiding member is hollow and has an internal reflective surface wherein the propagation is in air or vacuum. This feature is clearly claimed in amended claim 1 as “the guiding member being hollow and having an internal reflective surface wherein the propagation is in air or vacuum”, and in claim 13 as “directing the geometrically confined beam of light through a hollow reflective wave guide onto a gain medium disposed in the optical axis and the optical excitation path such that the propagation is through air or vacuum”.

*Usui*’s wave guide is not hollow, nor is the propagation in *Usui* in air or vacuum. Rather, *Usui*’s wave guide is solid, as clearly described in *Usui* at Col. 5, lines 8-10, stating that the optical guide plate is made of optical glass for the propagation of the beam. Thus, the propagation is not through air or vacuum.

Since *Usui* does not disclose a claimed feature of the present invention, the present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 13 would not be obvious from the cited references. As such, independent claims 1 and 13 are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

Claims 2-9, 11-12, and 14-15 are dependent on either claim 1 or 13, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to claims 1 and 13, claims 2-9, 11-12, and 14-15 are also believed to be patentable.

### **Claim Rejection - 35 USC 103**

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duarte, Dye Laser Principles, 1990 (herein “Duarte”) in view

of US Patent No. 6,038,244 (*Usui*), in view of US Patent No. 6,836,502 (*Canady*), and further in view of US Patent No. 5,181,222 (Duarte II). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 is dependent on claim 1, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1, claim 10 is also believed to be patentable.

#### **Claim Rejection - 35 USC 103**

Claims 16-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duarte, Dye Laser Principles, 1990 (herein "Duarte") in view of US Patent No. 6,836,502 (*Canady*). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 16-17 are dependent on claim 13, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 13, claims 16-17 are also believed to be patentable.

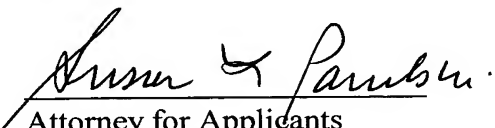
#### **Summary**

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

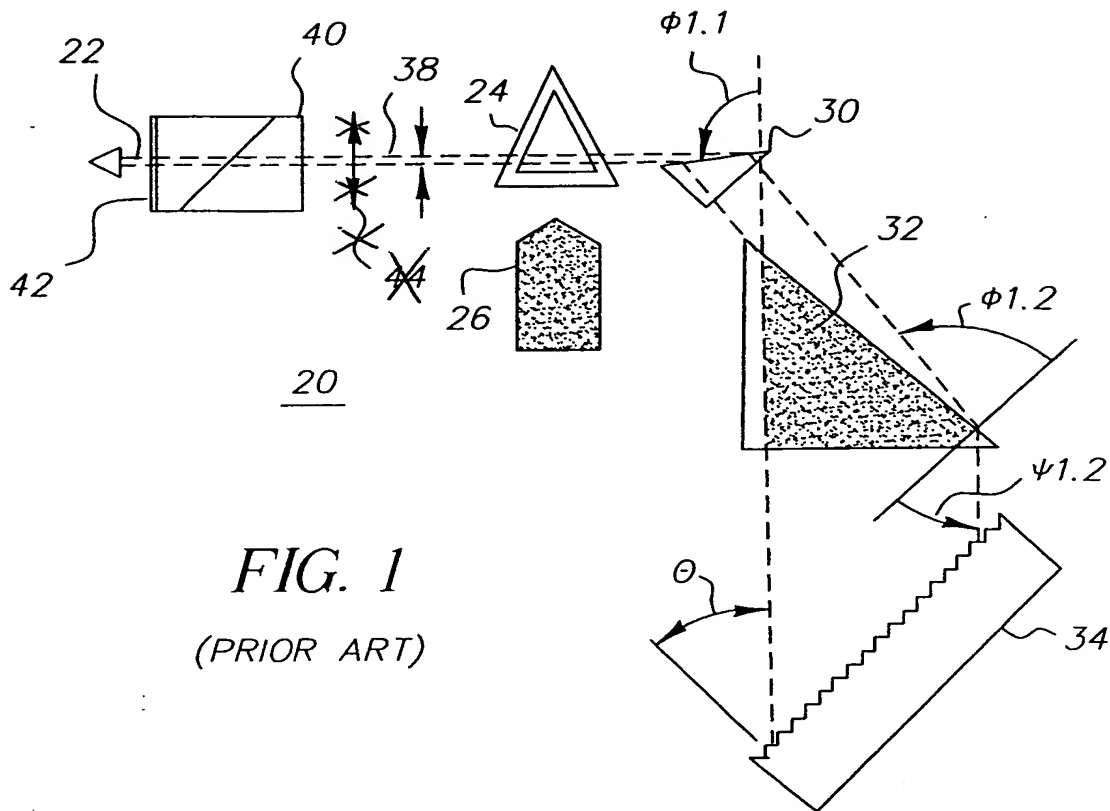
For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225.

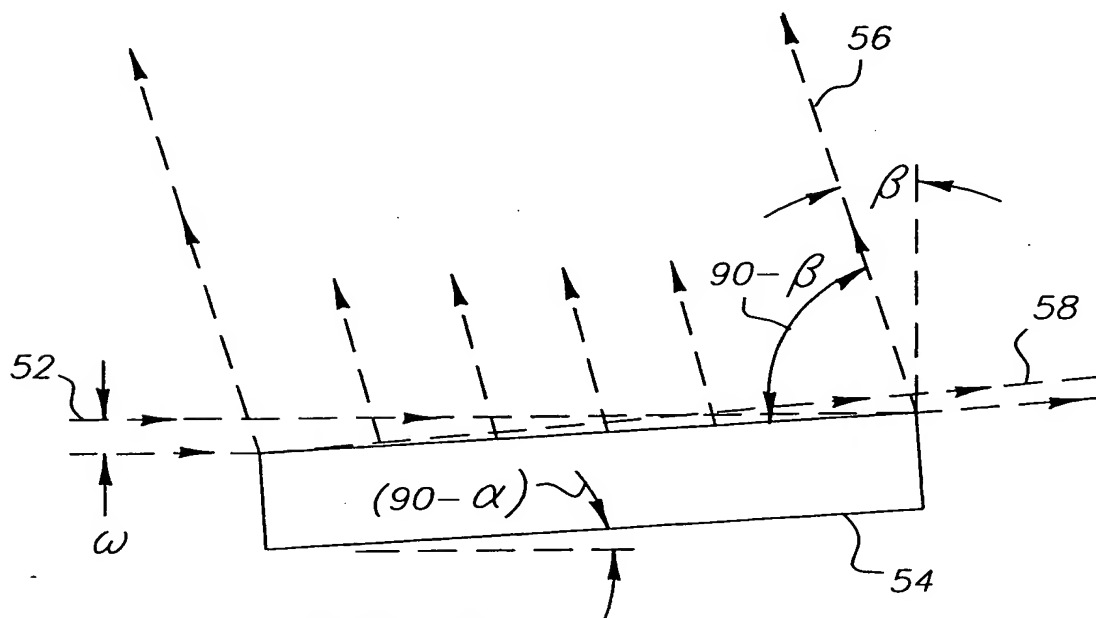
Respectfully submitted,

  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 39,324

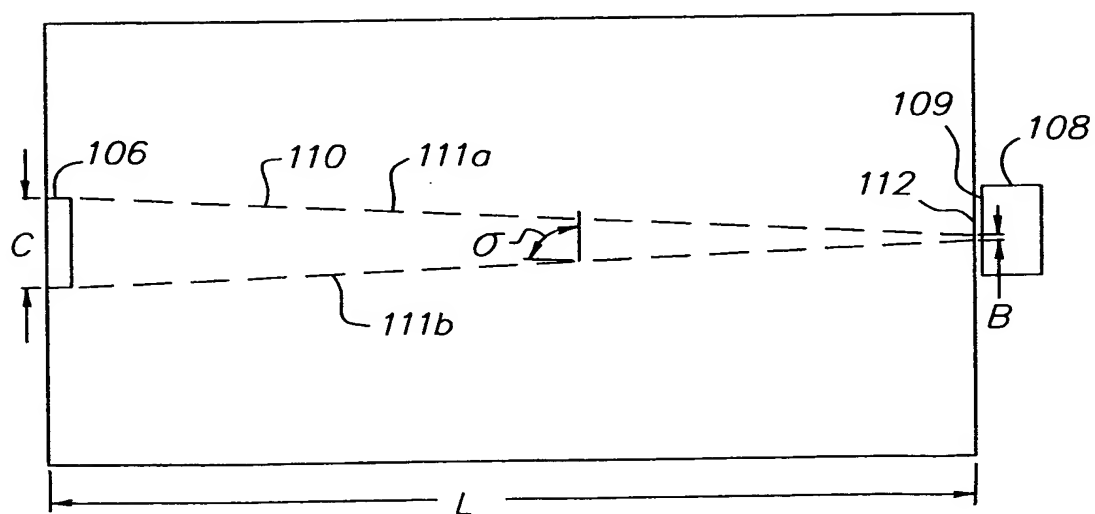
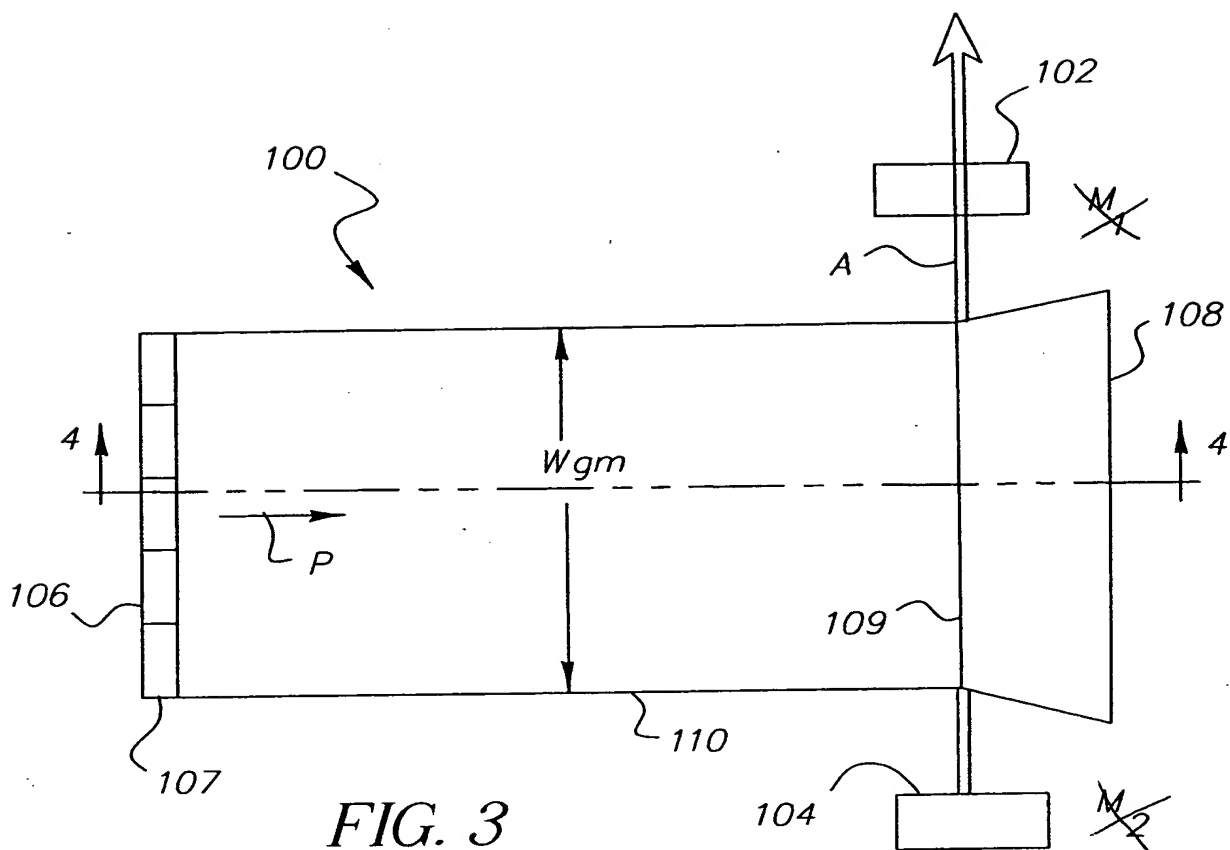
Susan L. Parulski/law  
Rochester, NY 14650-2201  
Telephone: (585) 477-4027  
Facsimile: (585) 477-4646



**FIG. 1**  
 (PRIOR ART)



**FIG. 2**



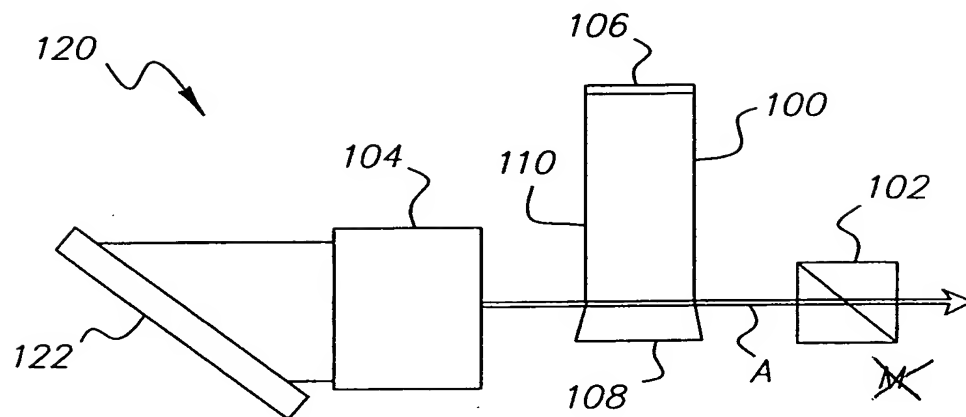


FIG. 5

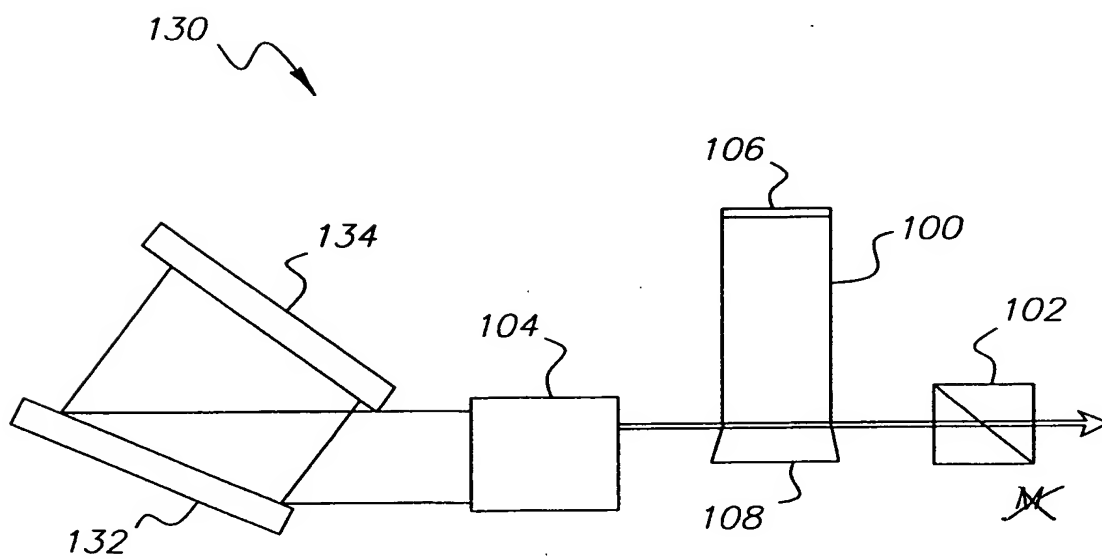
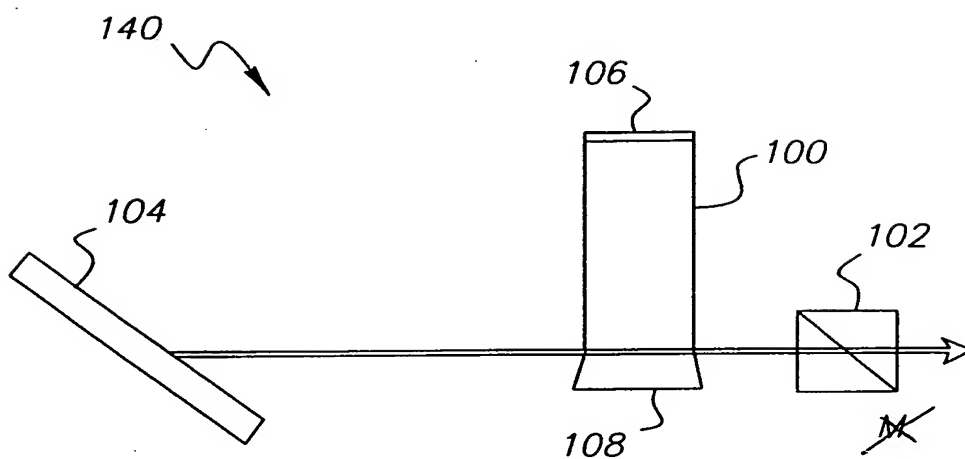
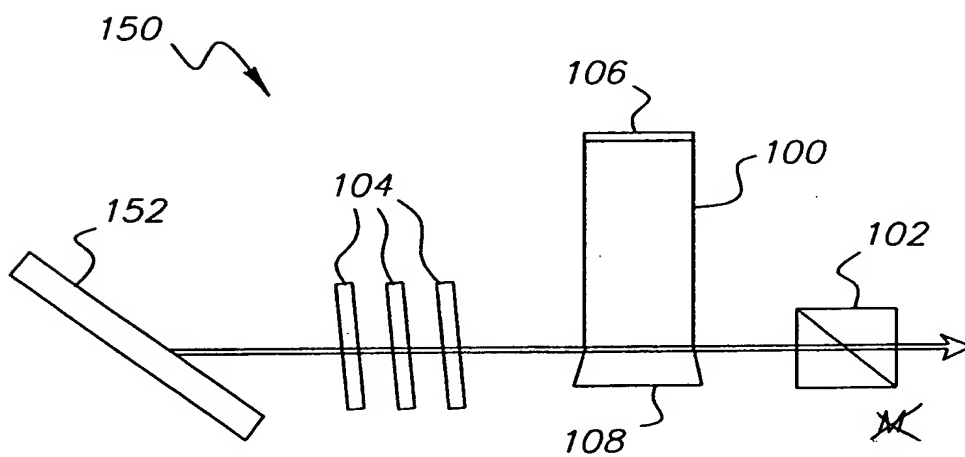


FIG. 6





*FIG. 7*



*FIG. 8*